

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 49-72, 75, 79 are amended. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claim 48 (Previously presented). A modified subtilase comprising a mutation in an amino acid sequence of a subtilase, wherein the mutation is an insertion of at least one amino acid residue between:

- (a) positions 51 and 56;
- (b) positions 216 and 217; and/or
- (c) positions 217 and 218;

wherein the positions are numbered according to the amino acid sequence of the mature subtilisin BPN' of SEQ ID NO: 7 and the modified subtilase has subtilase activity.

Claim 49 (Currently amended). The modified subtilase variant of claim 48, which has a residual activity of at least 10% in the Ovo-inhibition assay.

Claim 50 (Currently amended). The modified subtilase variant of claim 49, which has a residual activity of at least 15%.

Claim 51 (Currently amended). The modified subtilase variant of claim 48, wherein the variant contains two or more insertions.

Claim 52 (Currently amended). The modified subtilase variant of claim 51, wherein the variant contains more than two insertions.

Claim 53 (Currently amended). The modified subtilase variant of claim 48, wherein the insertion is between positions 51 and 52; positions 52 and 53; positions 53 and 54; positions 54 and 55; or positions 55 and 56.

Claim 54 (Currently amended). The modified subtilase variant of claim 53, wherein the insertion is selected from the group consisting of X51XA, X51XT, X51XG, X51XS, X51XD, X51XE, X51XK, X51XR, X51XH, X51XV, X51XC, X51XN, X51XQ, X51XF, X51XI, X51XL, X51XM, X51XP, X51XW and X51XY.

Claim 55 (Currently amended). The modified subtilase variant of claim 53, wherein the insertion is selected from the group consisting of X52XA, X52XT, X52XG, X52XS, X52XD, X52XE, X52XK, X52XR, X52XH, X52XV, X52XC, X52XN, X52XQ, X52XF, X52XI, X52XL, X52XM, X52XP, X52XW and X52XY.

Claim 56 (Currently amended). The modified subtilase variant of claim 53, wherein the insertion is selected from the group consisting of X53XA, X53XT, X53XG, X53XS, X53XD, X53XE, X53XK, X53XR, X53XH, X53XV, X53XC, X53XN, X53XQ, X53XF, X53XI, X53XL, X53XM, X53XP, X53XW and X53XY.

Claim 57 (Currently amended). The modified subtilase variant of claim 53, wherein the insertion is selected from the group consisting of X54XA, X54XT, X54XG, X54XS, X54XD, X54XE, X54XK, X54XR, X54XH, X54XV, X54XC, X54XN, X54XQ, X54XF, X54XI, X54XL, X54XM, X54XP, X54XW and X54XY.

Claim 58 (Currently amended). The modified subtilase variant of claim 53, wherein the insertion is selected from the group consisting of X55XA, X55XT, X55XG, X55XS, X55XD, X55XE, X55XK, X55XR, X55XH, X55XV, X55XC, X55XN, X55XQ, X55XF, X55XI, X55XL, X55XM, X55XP, X55XW and X55XY.

Claim 59 (Currently amended). The modified subtilase variant of claim 48, wherein the insertion is between positions 216 and 217.

Claim 60 (Currently amended). The modified subtilase variant of claim 59, wherein the insertion is selected from the group consisting of X216XA, X216XT, X216XG, X216XS, X216XD, X216XE, X216XK, X216XR, X216XH, X216XV, X216XC, X216XN, X216XQ, X216XF, X216XI, X216XL, X216XM, X216XP, X216XW and X216XY.

Claim 61 (Currently amended). The modified subtilase variant of claim 48, wherein the insertion is between positions 217 and 218.

Claim 62 (Currently amended). The modified subtilase variant of claim 61, wherein the insertion is selected from the group consisting of X217XA, X217XT, X217XG, X217XS, X217XD, X217XE, X217XK, X217XR, X217XH, X217XV, X217XC, X217XN, X217XQ, X217XF, X217XI, X217XL, X217XM, X217XP, X217XW and X217XY.

Claim 63 (Currently amended). The modified subtilase variant of claim 48, wherein the subtilase is a sub-group I-S1 subtilase.

Claim 64 (Currently amended). The modified subtilase variant of claim 63, wherein the subtilase is selected from the group consisting of subtilisin I168, subtilisin BPN', subtilisin DY, and subtilisin Carlsberg.

Claim 65 (Currently amended). The modified subtilase variant of claim 48, wherein the subtilase is a sub-group I-S2 subtilase.

Claim 66 (Currently amended). The modified subtilase variant of claim 65, wherein the subtilase is selected from the group consisting of subtilisin 147, subtilisin 309, subtilisin PB92, and subtilisin YaB.

Claim 67 (Currently amended). The modified subtilase variant of claim 48, wherein the variant comprises at least one further mutation.

Claim 68 (Currently amended). The modified subtilase variant of claim 67, wherein the at least one further mutation is a substitution.

Claim 69 (Currently amended). The modified subtilase variant of claim 67, wherein the at least one further mutation is at position 27, 36, 56, 76, 87, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 120, 123, 129, 131, 132, 133, 143, 159, 167, 170, 192, 194, 206, 217, 218, 222, 224, 232, 235, 236, 245, 248, 252 or 274.

Claim 70 (Currently amended). The modified subtilase variant of claim 69, wherein the variant further comprises the modification S101G+S103A+V104I+G159D+A232V+Q236H+Q245R+N248D+N252K.

Claim 71 (Currently amended). The modified subtilase ~~variant~~ of claim 48, further comprising an insertion of at least one additional amino acid residue in the active site loop (b) region from position 95 to 103.

Claim 72 (Currently amended). A cleaning or detergent composition, comprising the modified subtilase ~~variant~~ of claim 48 and a surfactant.

Claim 73 (Previously presented). The composition of claim 72, which additionally comprises an amylase, cellulase, cutinase, lipase, oxidoreductase, another protease, or combination thereof.

Claim 74 (Previously presented). A method for removal of egg stains from a hard surface or from laundry, comprising contacting the egg stain-containing hard surface or the egg stain-containing laundry with a cleaning or detergent composition of claim 72.

Claim 75 (Currently amended). An isolated polynucleotide with a DNA sequence encoding a modified subtilase ~~variant~~ of claim 48.

Claim 76 (Previously presented). An expression vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claim 75.

Claim 77 (Previously presented). A microbial host cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 76.

Claim 78 (Previously presented). A microbial host cell of claim 77, which is a bacterium.

Claim 79 (Currently amended). A method for producing a modified subtilase ~~variant~~, comprising

- (a) culturing a host of claim 77 under conditions conducive to the expression and secretion of the ~~variant~~ modified subtilase, and
- (b) recovering the ~~variant~~ modified subtilase.